9. (Once amended) A node as claimed in claim 7, further comprising SCCP translation functions supporting the enhanced links, the SCCP translation functions being engineered such that primary translation is to be logical destinations reachable via the enhanced links and backup translation is to be logical destinations reachable via links based on MTP level 2 if translation results in a physical destination located in a node supporting the enhanced links.

10. (Twice amended) A node which supports enhanced links having an ability to transfer long messages which are longer than that supported by current MTP level 2 and up to a maximum length supported by SSCOP, the node comprising:

first and second destination point codes, wherein the second destination point code is used to identify the node as one having the ability to transfer the long messages, and both the first and second point codes are part of different MTP networks.

11. (Once amended) A node as claimed in claim 10, further comprising MTP routing tables supporting the enhanced links, wherein the routing tables are structured such that routing between nodes with the second destination point code uses only the enhanced links.

12. (Once amended) A node as claimed in claim 10, further comprising SCCP translation functions supporting the enhanced links, the SCCP translation functions being engineered such that primary translation is to be logical destinations reachable via the enhanced links and backup translation is to be logical destinations reachable via links based on MTP level 2 if translation results in a physical destination located in a node supporting the enhanced links.